

The evidence is clear that trade can help the U.S. economy and those of our partners, stabilize international relationships and encourage further reforms. Trade can and should enhance good labor practices and environmental quality. Each agreement should be carefully scrutinized to assure it measures up to all standards.

The Chile and Singapore agreements illustrate the nuanced approach that Congress should take. With the U.S.-Chile FTA, we can send a positive message to other developing countries that the U.S. places a high regard on efforts to improve institutional frameworks that support democracy, environmental protection, improved labor standards, and market reform. Chile is making progress in all of these areas and should receive broad-based Congressional support for the agreement.

Unfortunately, the Singapore agreement does not generate such advancement. A loophole enables Singapore to export products from two Indonesian islands and circumvent the agreement's provisions. Singapore, with a per capita income of \$30,000 per year, has the potential to follow TPA's environment instructions more closely and be an environmental leader. Sadly, Singapore appears lax in monitoring international trade in illegally cut timber, poached elephant ivory, and other endangered wildlife species and products that pass through its borders.

These issues must be clarified before the Singapore agreement is approved. The Chilean agreement is an important step forward, especially in a sea of Latin American instability. It signals how we can keep our commitment in trade agreements while protecting core American values.